



Alleluia!

What is Stewardship?

by Dave Eitland, Director of Development

At Coffee and Donuts the other Sunday, one of the parishioners asked me what I do and I said, “I talk to people about giving and stewardship?” And they looked at me like they did not know what I was talking about.

Stewardship/Giving is a learned grace, a spiritual discipline, and a way of life. “As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.” (US Catholic Bishops, Letter on Stewardship, 2002) and we do this every day for the rest of our lives to eternity.

“Giving begets giving” is an old saying in my profession. Being in professional philanthropy, stewardship, and financial giving for 30 years I have found that people who give can point to a time where someone else taught them about giving. This lifestyle of giving starts with seeing others give consistently and being told the impact of their giving. Most people learn giving from others who have an “attitude of gratitude.” And because of that gratitude, they are to give of themselves to dramatically change the world through giving. Most of the time, parents have taught giving to their children. Some have not had this experience.

Extraordinary giving comes from a lifestyle of giving. In the Church, the giver realizes that all things come from

God and receives God's gifts of time, talent and financial resources, knows God is lavish in giving, and knows we are given more than our needs so that we can give to others. We learn this day by day in giving away our time, our talent, and financial resources as God daily calls us to do, to participate in God's ministry and mimic God's great love for the world.

It is the task of the Church to provide stewards/givers many opportunities to give and it does to provide many ministries for the disciple to act in the world. It is the steward's responsibility growing in gratitude to respond to those giving opportunities as God leads them. We can't do the entire ministry needed by the world and that's why we come together to join in ministry together. Our giving together in the Church can make dramatic things happen by each of us giving as God calls us to do.

So as we journey together, I will provide you with opportunities to give in many and varied ways to advance God's ministry, in an attitude of thanks and gratitude in order to do great things in giving together.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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